



NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES

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May 11, 2005

The Honorable Vic Snyder
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Personnel
House Armed Services Committee
2120 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Snyder:

On behalf of the men and women of the National Guard Association of the United States, I would like to voice my strong opposition to prohibiting the assignment of female members of the Army to forward support companies in "combat areas".

The Global War on Terrorism has fundamentally changed the concept and geography of "combat areas". Today combat may occur in the desert or on Main Street.

Further, the Army National Guard, like it's active and reserve counterparts, trains and deploys companies composed of both male and female soldiers. These units train together for a very uncertain environment, an environment that can be deadly to any member of any unit, regardless of where they are stationed. Disrupting unit cohesion and unit readiness would be harmful to all soldiers.

The National Guard Association of the United States strongly supports the current Department of Defense policy on the assignment of women in combat as part of the war on terror, and we do not seek to alter that policy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen M. Koper".

Stephen M. Koper
Brigadier General, USAF, (Ret.)
President